

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The below listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. - 34. (Canceled)

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein a first application workload executes on a first server cluster having a first domain and the remote location includes a second domain having a second server cluster running a second application workload further comprising:

monitoring execution of the first application workload to determine whether the performance requirements for execution of the first application workload specified in the service level agreement will continue to be met; and

responsive to a determination that the performance requirements for execution of the first application workload will not continue to be met, sending a request to the second domain to assign one or more of the plurality of server nodes in the second server cluster at the second domain to the execution of the first application workload.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 55, further comprising:

receiving a counter offer from the remote location, the counter offer specifying one or more of a different number of server nodes than the number of server nodes requested, a different duration for the number of server nodes requested, and a different dollar value for the request.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 55, further comprising:

receiving a refusal from the remote location denying the request, the refusal from the remote location being based upon evaluation of an impact on a service level agreement negotiated for an application workload executing on the remote location if the request was granted.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein responsive to a determination that the performance requirements for execution of the first application workload are not being met, the method further comprises:

sending a request to a third domain to assign one or more of a plurality of server nodes in a third server cluster at the third domain to the execution of the first application workload, wherein a third application workload is executing on the third server cluster at the third domain while the first application workload is executing on the first server cluster at the first domain, and

wherein the request sent to the third domain specifies a number of server nodes requested, a duration in which the number of server nodes requested will be needed, and a dollar value associated with the request.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 39, further comprising:

receiving a first counter offer from the second domain, the first counter offer specifying one or more of a different number of server nodes than the number of server nodes requested, a different duration for the number of server nodes requested, and a different dollar value for the request; and

receiving a second counter offer from the third domain, the second counter offer specifying one or more of a different number of server nodes than the number of server nodes requested, a different duration for the number of server nodes requested, and a different dollar value for the request, wherein what is specified in the first counter offer differs from what is specified the second counter.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, further comprising:  
sending a first response to the second domain, the first response indicating acceptance or rejection of the first counter offer from the second domain; and  
sending a second response to the third domain, the second response indicating acceptance or rejection of the second counter offer from the third domain.

42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 39, further comprising:  
receiving a refusal from the third domain denying the request, the refusal from the third domain being based upon evaluation of an impact on a service level agreement negotiated for the third application workload executing on the third server cluster at the third domain if the request was granted.

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the dollar value associated with the request is a penalty specified in the service level agreement negotiated for the application workload.

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the dollar value associated with the request is a payment amount for the number of server nodes requested.

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the first application workload is a transaction application workload.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the transaction application workload comprises stock trades.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the remote location executes a parallel application workload.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the parallel application workload involves optimization of a stock portfolio.

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the performance requirements for execution of the application workload specified in the service level agreement comprises throughput requirements.

50. (Previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the performance requirements for execution of the application workload specified in the service level agreement comprises response time requirements.

51. (Previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the performance requirements for execution of the application workload specified in the service level agreement comprises availability requirements.

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the performance requirements for execution of the application workload specified in the service level agreement comprises downtime requirements.

53. (Previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the service level agreement for the application workload further specifies penalty functions when the service level agreement is violated.

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein monitoring execution of the application workload on the subset of server nodes assigned to execute the first application workload comprises:

monitoring one or more of a transaction rate, a transaction response time, availability of a server node, and utilization of a server node.

55. (Currently amended) A method for supporting an application workload using a resource at a remote location, the method comprising:

assigning a subset of a plurality of server nodes to execute the application workload;

executing the application workload on the assigned subset of the plurality of server nodes;

monitoring execution of the application workload to determine whether a threshold of a performance requirement of a service level agreement specifying performance requirements for execution of the application workload is met;

responsive to a determination that the threshold of the performance requirements is not being met sending a request for at least one server node to at the remote location wherein the request specifies a number of nodes requested, a time duration for which the requested nodes are needed, and a dollar value associated with the request; and

~~adjusting the threshold to provide an adjusted threshold for a further threshold determination whether the adjusted threshold is met in order to prevent oscillation between increasing and decreasing the number of server nodes~~

receiving from the remote location an acceptance of the request in accordance with the dollar value.

56. -57. (Cancelled)

58. (New) The method of claim 55, further comprising receiving the acceptance in accordance with a comparison of the dollar value and a minimum acceptable payment amount.

59. (New) The method of claim 58, wherein the minimum acceptable payment amount is determined in accordance with a determination of the value of processing operations performed at the remote location.

60. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the value of processing operations performed at the remote location is determined in accordance with a service level agreement of the remote location.

61. (New) A method for determining whether to support an application workload at a local cluster of nodes using a resource at a remote location remote from the local cluster, the method comprising:

receiving at the remote location from the local cluster a request for at least one server node determined at the local cluster in accordance with a threshold of performance requirements of the local cluster wherein the request specifies a number of nodes requested, a time duration for which the requested nodes are needed, and a dollar value associated with the request; and

transmitting from the remote location to the local cluster an acceptance of the request in accordance with the dollar value.

62. (New) An article of manufacture, comprising:

at least one computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein for performing a method for supporting an application workload using a resource at a remote location, the computer readable program code means in said article of manufacture comprising:

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to assign a subset of a plurality of server nodes to execute the application workload;

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to execute the application workload on the assigned subset of the plurality of server nodes;

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to monitor execution of the application workload to determine whether a threshold of a performance requirement of a service level agreement specifying performance requirements for execution of the application workload is met;

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to send a request for at least one server node to the remote location wherein the request specifies a number of nodes requested, a time duration for which the requested nodes are needed, and a dollar value associated with the request responsive to a determination that the threshold of the performance requirements is not being met; and

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to receive from the remote location an acceptance of the request in accordance with the dollar value.